

## Film “T-11 Incomplete” Features Diverse Actors and Storyline

► **LOS ANGELES** — A new film written and directed by Suzanne Guacci portrays disability and diverse individuals both in the story and as part of its production.

“T-11 Incomplete” is set to debut in 2019. The term “T-11 Incomplete” refers to the point of severing on the spine that causes paraplegia, but an “incomplete” paraplegic still has some feeling; he or she is not completely numb. Each character has his or her own literal or metaphorical “T-11,” a point where an injury or severing occurred that altered and changed the direction of life forever, yet each character still has the ability to feel. The question ultimately becomes, who

really is the more broken of the bunch: the body that’s broken or the spirit that’s broken?

The story follows Kate Murphy (Karen Sillas), who lost everything when she hit rock-bottom from addiction. Now, 10 years sober, middle-aged and living alone with her elderly cat, Kate strives to rebuild her broken life and repair her damaged relationship with her son, Jack (Zachary Booth). Barely making ends meet as a visiting home health aide, Kate marches quietly through her uneventful days, until she is assigned a young, beautiful, paraplegic patient named Laura (Kristen Renton). Bonded by their mutual suffering, the women share an

undeniable connection, and it isn’t long before they fall deeply in love. But when Kate steals money to save her dying cat, she betrays Laura’s trust and finds her fragile world shattered once again.

Guacci was a New York State trooper and who lost her leg in the line of duty, marking her own “T-11.” “My world changed dramatically when I lost my leg,” she says. “And now, as a writer and director, I do feel a great responsibility in my work to bring forth stories about disability. I can’t name another disabled, lesbian, female writer/director, and my life, worldview and voice are different because of it. I do believe the disabled community needs an honest voice in media, and my goal is to be that for the community. It is about time that we have a disabled voice actually behind the stories about our disabled community.”

In addition to portraying different abilities on-screen, Guacci included people with apparent and non-apparent disabilities behind the scenes so that disability is a fabric of the film, not just in the story. The cast includes an actress with lupus, another with multiple sclerosis and one who is a double amputee. One of the film’s producers is a little person. The film’s kitten was even blind. Actress Katy Sullivan, who was featured on the cover of *Diversity in Action’s* September/October issue that discussed fashion for different abilities, has a supporting role in the film. There also were actors who identify as part of the LGBTQ community.

“It was not an easy task to be inclusive to the many communities that our film represents, but it was our responsibility, we knew, to try,” Guacci says, adding, “It must start with me, and by being inclusive, we are opening up the scope of this film to several communities who seek honest representation.”



◀ Actors Karen Sillas and Kristen Renton